

Introduction

This toolkit provides information on changes in NIH grant review, in effect since May 2009, and upcoming changes in grant format, going into effect for applications submitted on/after January 25, 2010. The new application format will align proposals more closely with the revised review criteria and Summary Statement templates. In December 2009 NIH released application forms and instructions to support the new proposal format. The documents in this toolkit will give you an overview of the changes.

What's Included in the Toolkit

The file **Enhancing_Peer_Review_Application_Changes.pdf** provides a 2-page, easy to understand account of the changes in grant proposal format: what, why, and where to go for more information. It was downloaded from the NIH website:

http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/training_communication.html

The PDF file **Changes_NIH_GrantFormat_Review_100201.pdf** is based on a PowerPoint presentation that gives an overview of the NIH grant submission process, outlines the changes in the review process (in effect since May, 2009), and briefly describes the changes in proposal format, effective from January 25, 2010. Many of the slides were taken from presentations by NIH staff given in mid-2009. Several have been updated based on new application instructions released by NIH in December 2009

The file **application_changes-1.pdf** describes, in greater detail than the above-referenced PDF files, the three major changes in revised proposals: (1) a shorter, restructured research plan, (2) a biosketch which will now include a personal statement detailing qualifications for the proposed work, and (3) an elaborated description of resources to point out how the applicant's environment is particularly suited to the proposed research. This file was downloaded from the NIH website and can be accessed via a link within NIH notice NIH-OD-09-149, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-09-149.html>.

The file **rpg_critique_template_example.doc** is a sample R01 grant critique using the new templates. The templates direct the reviewer to list strengths and weaknesses for the major review criteria (significance, investigator, innovation, approach, and environment) as bullet points and to give separate numerical scores (on a 1 to 9 point scale) for each criterion as well as giving a separate score for over-all impact (i.e., the priority score).

The file **biosketchsample.doc** provides an example of a biosketch in the new format, which includes a personal statement describing why the investigator is especially qualified to accomplish the proposed work and a selected publication list limited to 15 of the applicant's papers.

The folder **NIAID Strategy Articles** contains 3 articles on strategy for writing NIH applications in the new shorter format. These articles were published in November and December 2000 in *NIAID Funding News*. Start with the earliest article, **NIAID The Art of Application 091112.pdf**.

Places to watch for developing information:

NIAID Tutorials <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/>

NIH Grant Cycle: Application to Renewal (presented by NAIAD)

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/cycle/default.htm>

This website presents the major chronological steps or tasks in preparing and managing a research grant as a cycle and has live links at each step, guiding you to a flow chart. Each flow chart leads you through smaller sequential steps to accomplish a task such as Defining Your Project, the Research Plan, or Assignment and Review. You get an overview of the entire cycle on one page but also can drill down to very detailed instructions and examples. As the application process is changed, this website will be updated.

Enhancing Peer Review at NIH-Communication and Training Resources: http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/training_communication.html

Prepared by Janet S. Rasey, 19 October 2009, revised October 23, 2009